



## Training on Water Quality Testing

Spreading awareness and training individuals for safe storage and handling of drinking water is an important part of the 'Photo-irradiation and Adsorption based Novel Innovations for Water-treatment' (PANIWATER) project. Recently a team from DA visited Bagan and Ladpura Khas villages in the Bundelkhand region to provide training to the community about the parameters that are important to understand the quality of water. The participants which included youth, women, and a few men were identified one day before the training programme after permission from the *Sarpanch* (village chief). The objective of the training was to explain the general contaminants present in drinking water and this was done along with the Radio Bundelkhand team to make the training session more engaging.

Before starting the training, it was ensured that all participants maintained social distance, wore masks, and sanitised their hands. A brief introduction was given by the Radio Bundelkhand team on safe storage practices and handling of drinking water. Furthermore, several tools such as Jingles and Narrowcasting were used to engage the community members, and feedback was sought for further assessment. The community radio station and its activities were thus used as a vital communications tool to create awareness among the community members.

The DA team on site explained the process of using the water testing Jal-TARA kit and the method of testing samples. The participants brought their own water samples for better understanding of the process. Several physical and chemical parameters were checked in front of the participants and hands-on training was provided. Young students present in the workshop were provided stationary to take down notes and were motivated to ask questions along the way.

Similar trainings have been planned in four other villages in this month. The communities and the local government will also be engaged in stakeholder consultation for their feedback